Ministry of Commerce to look after Virginia tobacco growers. The Board regulates the production of Virginia tobacco and runs auction platforms.

(b) Committee headed by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy was set up to look into the causes leading to and problems arising out of employment of children and to suggest suitable measures for their protection and welfare. As per the recommendations of the Committee child labour cell has been set up in the Ministry of Labour in 1979; The Child Labour Advisory Board was formed in March, 1981 and the Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted w.e.f. 3-8-1987.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for model work centres for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

7667. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up model work centres for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not protected the employment of beedi workers;

(c) whether Government propose to ensure security of employment for beedi workers; and .

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) to (c) The Government have enacted several labour laws, viz., the Beedi & cigar Workers' (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the E.S.I. Act, 1948; the Payment of Wages Act. 1927. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; Chapter IV & Section 85 of the Factories Act, 1948 and the Payment of. Gratuity Act, 1972 which are applicable to beedi workers and protect their interests. In addition, the Government are implementing several anti-poverty and employment generation programmes for the rural and the urban poor which include the beedi workers.

Welfare schemes for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh

7668. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no monitoring is done of welfare schemes for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh:

(b) whether district-wise figures are available on the economic health of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh:

(c) whether there has been no improvement in the per capita income of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh in the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): The Ministry of Labour have an office of the Welfare Commissioner in Hyderabad to implement various welfare schemes for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh. The imple-Escalation of the welfare schemes is closely monitored both by the Welfare Commissioner and the Ministry of Labour. Apart from that a statutory Tripartite State Advisory Committee has been set up by the Central Government in the State of Andhhra Pradesh which also does this monitoring function.

(b) Steps have been taken to streamline the working of various welfare schemes and to substantially step up their implementation, both in quality and quan-tity, particularly in the fields of housing, health and education. Besides, the Government have intensified various anti-poverty and employment generation schemes during, the Eighth Plan to help the rural and urban poor which include beedi workers'.